

Clean Air Fund Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

April 18, 2006

- I. Call to Order: Chair Stubblefield called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.
- II. Approve summary of the January 17, 2006 meeting: The Committee approved the summary.
- III. Public Comment: There was no public comment.
- IV. Staff Report: There was no staff report.
- V. Old Business: None
- VI. New Business:

Fund Balance Update:

Mr. Cowen provided the fund balance update. Approximately \$65,000 would be available for projects for the remainder of this year. The balance of the permanent endowment is approximately \$836,092. Mr. King suggested that larger grant amounts are needed to make a significant contribution to air quality by funding demonstrations or other innovative projects. This means that funds from the permanent endowment in excess of the current 5 percent nominal earnings would be needed. However, the permanent endowment of the Clean Air Fund was established in perpetuity by an agreement between the Ventura County Community Foundation and 3M. Any changes to this agreement would have to be agreed to by both parties. Staff will research this idea and report back at the next meeting.

Proposed Project: Electric Lawn Mower Exchange/Buydown proposal

At the January 17, 2006, meeting, the Committee was for reducing emissions from diesel engines, but it would rather use the money on a project that has more dramatic impact on air quality. One idea mentioned was the retirement or exchange of the 2 stroke lawn mowers. The District has previously had a lawn mower exchange program that provided the citizens of the county with the opportunity to get a subsidized battery electric mower upon disposal of an old gasoline mower. However, this program was very staff intensive, and staff will look into revamping this program to make it more efficient in terms of district resources.

Mr. Cowen outlined the new version of a lawn mower exchange program that relies on a season long promotion instead of a one or two day event. Lowe's home improvement store has offered to sell their electric mowers to program participants at their cost. Staff suggested an additional \$50 discount for corded electric mowers and \$150 discount for cordless battery operated mowers. Discount vouchers could be obtained once the county resident recycled their gasoline mower and produced a receipt verifying the trade-in. Staff currently has a price quote from the Lowe's Ventura store for the following mowers:

Electric Mowers Available at Lowes

| Mower Description | Lowes Item # | Regular Price | Lowes Cost |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Black & Decker Cordless 19inch | 98446 | \$449 | \$389 |
| Task Force Cordless 20 inch | 227685 | \$349 | \$289 |
| Black & Decker 19inch Electric | 147398 | \$229 | \$189 |
| Task Force 18 inch Electric | 227684 | \$159.98 | \$100 |

Note: Task Force is the Lowes house brand, normally seen on some of the tools they sell.

When you combine the lower cost offered by Lowe's with the incentive provided by the Clean Air Fund, you should get good participation in the program. The number of mowers to be exchanged by the program ranges from 413 to 1,240 if \$62,000 is used for incentives with the balance (\$3,000) used for advertising and supplies. Each gasoline mower emits approximately 3.5 pound of combined NOx and ROC emissions. The cost-effectiveness for the corded mowers is about \$2 per pound of pollutant reduced and about \$10 per pound of pollutant reduced for the cordless mower.

Questions were asked if other stores such as Home Depot or Sears would be another partner. Staff said that Lowe's Ventura store was the only company interested in the program. Staff is in the process of contacting the Simi Valley Lowe's store to see if there is interest in the east county. There was general interest in reviving the lawn mower exchange program, and the high gasoline prices would help to focus on the costs associated with gasoline mowers. Mr. Forsythe moved to recommend the proposal to the Air Pollution Control Board, and Mr. King seconded the motion. All committee members voted in support of the motion.

VII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m..

Prepared by:
Stan Cowen, Air Pollution Control District Staff

Date: April 18, 2006

| Proposal for Lawn Mower Exchange Program | | | | |
|------------------------------------------|--------------|-------|--------|--------|
| Member | Attendance * | Moved | Second | Vote * |
| Baggerly | AE | | | |
| Bayman | AE | | | |
| Forsythe | P | X | | Y |
| King | P | | X | Y |
| Kobayashi | P | | | Y |
| Kromka | P | | | Y |
| Montoya | AE | | | |
| Neiswender | P | | | Y |
| Poole | P | | | Y |
| Stubblefield | P | | | Y |

* Attendance - P(present),A(absent),E(excused)

**Vote - Y(yes), N(no), A(abstain)

APCD Staff:

Mike Villegas
 Keith Duval
 Jerry Mason
 Christine White
 Stan Cowen

Guests:

None